



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

[Saric.James@epa.gov](mailto:Saric.James@epa.gov)

Non-  
Responsive

Thank you for your March 18, 2018 email concerning potential cost-estimating errors in the 2011 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Record of Decision (ROD) for the Tremont City Barrel Fill Superfund site and how the presence of dioxin might impact the selected remedy.

EPA has reviewed this matter and finds that the remedy described in the 2011 ROD followed appropriate EPA guidance for developing remedy cost estimates during a feasibility study (FS). EPA guidance allows the accuracy of FS-level cost estimates to range from +50 percent to -30 percent. The cost of the selected remedy will be further refined during the remedial design phase. Additionally, EPA believes the remedy will be protective and will operate properly and successfully when completed. Long-term groundwater monitoring is an important component of the remedy and will provide data needed to demonstrate remedy effectiveness. Once the remedy is constructed, EPA does not anticipate a need to excavate the disposal cell in the future. However, EPA will continue to evaluate the effectiveness and protectiveness of the remedy during five-year reviews which will be conducted as long as waste remains in place at the site.

On February 12, 2018 EPA signed an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) which requires a second lower liner at the base of the newly-constructed disposal cell in lieu of the previously planned slurry wall. The ESD also requires the removal of approximately 997 drums of still-bottom waste. EPA believes that the selected remedy documented in the 2011 ROD as revised by the 2018 ESD will be protective of human health and the environment, regardless of any additional materials and their associated toxicity that may be discovered during remedy implementation.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact James Saric, Remedial Project Manager, at (312) 886-0992 or [Saric.James@epa.gov](mailto:Saric.James@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

4/2/2018

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Robert A. Kaplan  
Acting Director, Superfund Division  
Signed by: DOUGLAS BALLOTTI